

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,
HELD AT PHILADELPHIA.

VOL. XIX.

JANUARY TO JUNE, 1881.

No. 108.

Stated Meeting, January 7, 1881.

Present, 8 members.

President, Mr. FRALEY, in the Chair.

Letters of acknowledgment were read from the Morganländische Gesellschaft, Halle a. S., Nov. 30 (100 to 105; list), and from Prof. J. J. Stevenson (106).

A letter requesting exchanges was received from M. DeMilloux, Director of the Musée Guimet, Lyons. On motion, it was referred to the Committee on Publication with power to act.

A request from the Albany Institute for No. 101 to complete a set was allowed.

Donations for the Library were received from the Russian and Belgian Academies; the Flora Batava; the Geographical Societies in Paris and Bordeaux, London Astronomical and Meteorological Societies and Nature, Nautical Almanac of Spain, American Journal of Mathematics, Silliman's Journal, Dr. G. W. Hawes, the Wesleyan University, New Jersey Historical Society, Pennsylvania Board of Agriculture, H. C. Baird, H. C. Lewis, H. Phillips, Jr., O. T. Mason, and Smithsonian Institution.

An obituary notice of Peter McCall, was read by Mr. Henry Phillips, Jr.

Notes on Photodynamics, were read by Professor P. E. Chase.

A note on the protection of oil-tanks from lightning stroke, by B. Howard Rand, M.D., was communicated through Dr. Greene.

Extracts were read from letters of Harrison Wright, Ph.D., respecting the Permian shells discovered in the highest strata of the Wilkesbarre anthracite basin by Dr. Charles F. Ingham, and referred to by him in his forthcoming History of Luzerne county.

The discovery by Prof. Spencer, of King's College, Nova Scotia, of a buried channel, following Grand river, deep enough to permit the preglacial drainage from Northwest Pennsylvania and Western New York to pass across Lake Erie and pass round into the head of Lake Ontario, was described by Mr. Lesley, and its importance insisted upon.

A colored model of the preglacial channel of the Clarion (Allegheny) river in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, was exhibited.

A colored MS. map of parts of Lee, Wise and Scott counties, Virginia, by Prof. J. J. Stevenson, was communicated for the Proceedings. It continues (westward) and in part corrects the colored geological map of Scott, Russell and Tazewell counties, by J. P. Lesley, published in Volume X of the Proceedings, 1872.

A small map of Pennsylvania was exhibited, colored, to show the progress of the Geological Survey since 1874.

The report of the judges of the annual election was read, declaring the following officers duly elected for the ensuing year:

President.

Frederick Fraley.

Vice-Presidents.

Eli K. Price,

E. Otis Kendall,

John L. LeConte.

Secretaries.

Pliny E. Chase,

George F. Barker,
J. P. Lesley.

Daniel G. Brinton,

Curators.

C. M. Cresson,

Henry Phillips, Jr.

George H. Horn.

Treasurer.

J. Sergeant Price.

Councillors for three years.

Daniel R. Goodwin, W. S. W. Ruschenberger,
 Henry Winsor, William A. Ingham.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Obituary Notice of Peter McCall. By Henry Phillips, Jr.

(Read before the American Philosophical Society, January 7, 1881.)

The life of a lawyer whose heart was not hardened by the arduous duties of his career, but which, through threescore years and ten, never failed to respond to the calls of humanity; who passed along earth's pathway from the cradle to the grave, untainted by sordid ambitions or ignoble aims; in whose footsteps it would be an honor to tread, whose approbation would be a hall-mark to those fortunate enough to win it—the life of such a man is not written in sand. Such a man is an honor to his profession and to his city. Such a man was Peter McCall.

Peter McCall was born in the city of Philadelphia, on the 31st day of August, A. D. 1809, and departed this life at his summer residence, Overbrook, near Philadelphia, on the 30th day of October, A. D. 1880. He was descended from one of the oldest families in Pennsylvania, an account of whose genealogy is given in the Shippen Papers, edited by Mr. Thomas Balch. His father, also named Peter McCall, intermarried with Sarah Gibson, of whom were born John Gibson (born 1804, married at Tampico, Doña Josefa Beccerra), Charles Archibald (born 1806), Anna Maria (born 1807), and Peter, the subject of the present sketch.

Mr. McCall's education was commenced in Philadelphia, and completed at Princeton, where he graduated with distinction in the class of 1826. He then began the study of the law in the office of Hon. Joseph R. Ingersoll, surrounded by fellow students, who all in later years rose to high legal eminence, and some of whom have occupied the judicial station. Pursuing his studies with zealous assiduity, he was admitted to the Philadelphia Bar on the first day of November, A. D. 1830, and from that day, until a few months since, when increasing infirmities compelled him to relinquish the practice of his profession, his career of usefulness was untiring and unceasing. Had he lived but one day longer, he would have completed a full half century of active work, an event which the Law Association of this city, of which he had been for years a prominent member, and in which he had held the office of Chancellor from 1873 to the day of his death, was preparing to celebrate in an appropriate manner. Upon the walls of its library hangs an excellent portrait of Mr. McCall, painted by Uble, which a few years since was presented to the Association by the Chancellor's former office